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Message Text

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PAGE 01 STOCKH 05009 141406Z

43
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SY-05 L-03 OMB-01 EB-07

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P R 141325Z SEP 76
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8646
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
AMCONSUL GOTEBORG

UNCLAS STOCKHOLM 5009

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, SW
SUBJECT: SWEDISH PRESS ARTICLE ON ALLEGED SWEDISH GOVERNMENT PAYMENTS TO UNNAMED AMERICAN MILITARY OFFICER

1. INDEPENDENT DAGENS NYHETER PUBLISHED ON SEPTEMBER 14 FRONT-PAGE ARTICLE WITH HEADLINE "SWEDISH MILLIONS TO US GENERAL." ARTICLE BASED ON STORY WRITTEN BY SWEDISH JOURNALIST JAN GUILLOU FOR SWEDISH POLITICAL MAGAZINE FIB KULTURFRONT WHICH WILL BE PUBLISHED SEPTEMBER 16.

2. COMPLETE DAGENS NYHETER ARTICLE, IN TRANSLATION, FOLLOWS:
BEGIN TEXT. ACCORDING TO THE LATEST ISSUE OF FIB KULTURFRONT, TO APPEAR ON THURSDAY, AN AMERICAN GENERAL HAS RECEIVED TWO MILLION KRONOR FROM CURRENT FOREIGN MINISTER SVEN ANDERSSON. ACCORDING TO FIB, THE MONEY WAS PAID OUT FOR SERVICES RENDERED.
SVEN ANDERSSON, AT THAT TIME DEFENSE MINISTER, CONFIRMED FOR DAGENS NYHETER YESTERDAY (MONDAY) EVENING THAT THE MONEY HAD BEEN PAID OUT. HE DENIES, HOWEVER, THAT IT WAS FOR SERVICES RENDERED.
THE FIB ARTICLE IS WRITTEN BY JAN GUILLOU WHO COLLABORATED WITH A WASHINGTON POST JOURNALIST. FIB
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ALSO HAS DOCUMENTS FROM THE RIKSBANK SHOWING THAT TWO

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MILLION KRONOR WERE PAID TO AN AIR FORCE GENERAL WHO HAS SINCE RETIRED.

THE TWO JOURNALISTS TOGETHER TELEPHONED THE GENERAL AND THE SWEDISH FOREIGN MINISTER TO HAVE THIS INFORMATION VERIFIED. THE GENERAL CONFIRMED IT, WHILE SVEN ANDERSSON DENIED IT.

ANDERSSON TO DAGENS NYHETER: "IT WAS PAYMENT FOR GOODS, CHIEFLY ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT, BOUGHT AT THE CLOSE OF THE 1960'S AND STILL BEING BOUGHT TODAY."

DAGENS NYHETER: "IS IT NORMAL TO PAY OUT MONEY TO A GENERAL?"

"THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN STOCKHOLM DESIGNATED WHO RECEIVED THE MONEY. I HAVE CHECKED THAT WITH GENERAL SYNNERGREN. NORMALLY, AFTER ALL, ONE BUYS DIRECTLY FROM THE FIRM, NOT AS THIS TIME DIRECTLY FROM THE GOVERNMENT. THE MONEY WAS PAID IN EARLIER TO A SKANDINAVISKA ENSKILDA BANK ACCOUNT. WHEN A LARGER SUM WAS TO BE PAID OUT, THAT WAS IN 1970 I BELIEVE, THE RIKSBANK'S APPROVAL WAS REQUIRED AND I THUS CONTACTED THE RIKSBANK. ON THE OTHER HAND, I DON'T KNOW WHY THE AMERICANS SHOULD HAVE HAD DIFFICULTY IN REVEALING THE RECIPIENT, THE AMERICAN GENERAL."

DAGENS NYHETER: "WHO HANDLED THESE PAYMENTS?"

"THE STAFF'S DID SO. BUT I MUST STRESS THAT THIS WAS A MATTER OF A PURELY NORMAL TRANSACTION."

END TEXT.

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